

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 100257Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8525

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

IPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3

FOLLOWING BIEN HOA TELEGRAM SENT 09 SEP 74 ACTION AMEMBASSY
SAIGON, INFO USDAO SAIGON, BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL BIEN HOA 475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3

1. THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN TWO OF MR-3'S THREE
MAJOR BATTLE AREAS DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS. THE NEWS IS FAVORABLE
FROM NORTHERN BIEN HOA WHERE LATE ON SEPT 7 GVN FORCES RECOVERED
THAI HUNG VILLAGE AND NEARBY BA CAM MOUNTAIN OUTPOST. THE NEWS IS
LESS FAVORABLE FROM THE BEN CAT AREA WHERE GVN FORCES WHICH HAD
BEEN INCHING CLOSER TO OP 82 WERE HIT BY A STRONG COUNTERATTACK
FROM THE 141ST REGIMENT, HAVE HAD TO PULL BACK TOWARD AN DIEN, AND
APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. IN TAY NINH, THE SITUATION
HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ACTION CONFINED TO ABF'S AND MINOR
HARASSMENTS.

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2. LATE ON SEPTEMBER 7, THE 43RD REGIMENT (18TH ARVN DIV), SUPPORTED BY THE 92ND RANGER BATTALION, PUSHED THE 209TH NVA REGT OUT OF THAI HUNG VILLAGE (YT 110230) AND RECOVERED THE OUTPOST ON THE HIGH GROUND OF BA CAM MOUNTAIN JUST NORTH OF THE VILLAGE. IN COMMENTING ON THIS ACTION SEPT 9, THE MR-3 COMMANDER, LTGEN THUAN, SAID THAT CASUALTIES IN THE 43RD DURING THE WEEK'S FIGHTING AT THAI HUNG WERE LESS THAN 30 KIA AND ABOUT 85 WIA BUT THAT GVN FORCES HAD VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED ONE BATTALION OF THE 209TH REGT AND VERY BADLY HURT ANOTHER OF THE 209TH'S THREE BATTALIONS. THUAN SAID THAT THE 43RD REGT WILL PURSUE THE 209TH WITH A VIEW TO INFlicting FURTHER CASUALTIES AND PUSHING THEM FARTHER NORTH. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE 209TH, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ORDERED TO REGROUP WITH ELEMENTS OF AN ARTILLERY AND AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION, AND TRY TO RETAKE THAI HUNG AND BA CAM.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WEST OF BEN CAT SEPT 9, THUAN SAID THAT ON SEPT 7 ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH ARVN DIV HAD REACHED THE PERIMETER OF OP 82 (XT 699312) AND HAD OVERTAKEN ONE OF THE BUNKERS IN THE OP 82 DEFENSE COMPLEX AS WELL AS A STRONG POINT SOUTH OF THE OUTPOST. AT 1950 ON SEPT 8, HOW HOWEVER, ELEMENTS OF THE 141ST REGT, POSSIBLY SUPPORTED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 95-C REGT, COUNTER-ATTACKED TOGETHER WITH 8 T-54 TANKS AND PUSHED UNITS OF THE 8TH REGT, 5TH ARVN DIV, BACK SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS. WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THE GVN FORCES HAD BEEN FORCED BACK TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF AN DIEN, BUT GENERAL THUAN SAID THE WITHDRAWAL WAS ONLY 300 TO 400 METERS. AS HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON SEPT 9, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 8TH REGT HAD TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES AND THUAN WAS PLANNING TO REINFORCE WITH ONE OR TWO BATTALIONS.

4. ABF'S AND MINOR HARASSMENTS CONTINUED DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR ACTION. THE PROVINCE CHIEF INFORMED US, HOWEVER, DURING A MEETING SEPT 9 THAT ONE BATTALION OF THE 205TH REGT (PREVIOUSLY CARRIED AS BEING NORTH OF BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN IN NORTHERN TAY NINH PROVINCE) IS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON CAU KHOI OUTPOST (XT 340458) ON LTL 26.

PETERS
UNQUOTE.
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